

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

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Kitimat, B.C.  
Phone: 250-632-4345

Mayor Phil Germuth and Council  
Kitimat, B.C.  
c/o e-mail: [mwilliams@kitimat.ca](mailto:mwilliams@kitimat.ca)

Dear Mayor Phil Germuth and Council Members,

I am writing in support of the proposed new transition house to be built in Strawberry Meadows in the Kildala area here in Kitimat.

I know that there are a few people in Kitimat who are opposed to this project and have some concerns about the structure, location and the possible “trouble” or “issues” that may arise from having this facility where it is being proposed to be built.

My family and I have lived at 12 Dease Street for over 39 years now. In 1996 when we heard that Dease Street was getting the “Transition House”, INITIALLY, we too were not in favour of, or happy about that. We felt it would decrease the value of our home and be “unsafe” because ... “who knew what kind of people might be hanging around that house and inadvertently ‘the neighbourhood’”. We were very concerned as we had four young children at the time. We thought it would be trouble.....!

Well, I can tell you that in the 22 years that the Transition House has been on Dease Street, we have never encountered a single problem or issue. We have found them to be good neighbours. Our home did not lose any value. We did not see any “shady characters” hanging around. The residents and the workers that we did encounter in the yard or walking on the street were always pleasant and gracious. Sometimes when I was out gardening, some of the resident women would stop and ask me about flowers and gardening .... or about the weather, or about my children or grandchildren. Many were very shy and timid, but none were ever obnoxious or rude.

My husband got to know a few of the workers at the house and was called on many times over the years to help with the lawn mower or snow blower repairs, or whatever repairs was needed. Our son actually worked for the Transition House for several years, doing the snow removal in the winter time. I occasionally went over to drop off used clothing and household items and was always received with gratitude and friendliness.

I see the need for such housing for many less fortunate women and children....and sometimes even men. They are human beings that need help and assistance for a time in their life....some longer than others. And I feel that if they are placed in a lovely family environment that they will have a much better chance of living healthy, happy and productive lives.

As I mentioned earlier in my letter, “The Transition House” (Dunmore Place), has been a good neighbour. No complaints whatsoever!

I think it is a great idea for the new facility to be built in Strawberry Meadows where it is close to the Kitimat downtown core with easy access to all the amenities needed for the residents as well as for the staff and workers at the facility.

**It is my hope that the concerns in regards to the design and/or the location of the project could be addressed, and that a plan that would accommodate the residents and the workers in this new facility, as well as all of the established surrounding residents could be worked out, so that there would be a consensus among all the parties concerned.**

**I believe the residents of Kitimat can do this.**

**I believe that if there is a will, there is a way.**

**I believe that overall, it is a great idea and a wonderful plan, and my husband and I are in full support of it.**

Sincerely,

Sylvia M. DeSousa

cc: [linda@tamitik.ca](mailto:linda@tamitik.ca)